

REMARKS

The non-elected claims have been cancelled without prejudice to applicants' right to file an appropriate continuing application directed thereto.

The allowance of claims 6-10 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 12 was objected to only on the grounds that it was dependent on a rejected claim. It is respectfully submitted that this objection has been overcome by this response.

Claims 1-5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Mandai et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,432,239. As noted in the Office Action, this reference constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 103(e) and therefore can be overcome by showing that the subject matter of the reference in the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person because this application was filed after November 29, 1999. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP §706.02(l)(1) and §706.02(l)(2), it is hereby stated that the present application and the Mandai reference were, at the time the invention in this application was made, owned by the same company, namely Murata Manufacturing Co., Ltd. Mandai is, therefore, not a reference and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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